

NEWS RELEASE

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**Statement of U.S. Attorney Rodger A. Heaton
on Appointment of Esteban F. Sanchez as Associate Circuit Judge
7th Judicial Circuit of Illinois in Springfield**

Springfield, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, congratulated Esteban F. Sanchez on his selection as Associate Circuit Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois in Springfield.

U.S. Attorney Heaton said, "Esteban will be an excellent jurist. Though the U.S. Attorney's Office is losing an accomplished and dedicated prosecutor, the citizens of central Illinois, specifically in Sangamon county, will continue to benefit from his professional experience and expertise in this new role. This appointment recognizes Esteban's strengths as a thoughtful litigator of the highest integrity."

U.S. Attorney Heaton noted that Mr. Sanchez's ongoing cases and investigations will be reassigned to other experienced prosecutors in the office.

Mr. Sanchez joined the U.S. Attorney's Office as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and chief of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in February 1989. Throughout his career as a federal prosecutor, Mr. Sanchez has been recognized by a number of law enforcement agencies. In October 2002, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service presented Mr. Sanchez with the Chief U.S. Postal Inspector's Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the successful prosecution of mail fraud cases in the Central District of Illinois. Among those cases was the conviction of 19 defendants related to U.S. v. Clyde D. Hood and Omega Trust and Trading, Inc. which resulted in the dismantling of an international prime bank note investment fraud scheme.

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